

**Jeopardy Assessment**  
for the Proposed Incidental Taking Authorization  
of the Monkeyface Mussel (*Quadrula metanevra*)

Buffalo City  
Mississippi River Pool 5, Wisconsin

**Background**

The monkeyface (*Quadrula metanevra*) is a large-river mussel native to Wisconsin. It is generally found in main channel or main channel border habitats and is less common in side channels and absent in backwaters and small sloughs. This mussel inhabits aquatic areas with gravel or mixed sand and gravel substrates. Statewide it occurs in the lower Wisconsin River, lower St. Croix River, lower Chippewa River, and the Mississippi River. It is uncommon in the Mississippi River upstream of Pool 8.

**Jeopardy Assessment**

The proposed dredging project is anticipated to result in the minor incidental taking of the monkeyface mussel and temporary disturbance to its habitat. Surveys completed of the proposed project area indicate the presence of low numbers of this State-threatened mussel. This particular site is of low significance to the overall status and recovery of the species in Wisconsin because the habitat is quite common. Other populations with greater mussel numbers exist in the vicinity of the project and in three other waterbodies within the state.

In order to minimize take, the proposed dredge cut areas with confirmed records of the mussel will be avoided and the total number of dredge cuts will be reduced. In addition, the habitat loss will only be temporary – after the completion of the project the areas of disturbance will restabilize and again provide habitat for this and other mussel species. As a result, the department has determined that the proposed project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence or recovery of the state population of these mussels or the whole plant-animal community of which they are a part.